

# **IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 11th November 2012**

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## **Silent Key : GI3GGY**

We are sorry to have to report the death of one of Northern Ireland's best known radio amateurs, Jimmy Porter GI3GGY, who also held the call sign EI3JC. Jimmy grew up in Derry and lived there for most of his life, running a TV and Radio business for many years. He was first licensed 64 years ago and was one of the longest-serving RSGB newsreaders, reading the news from 1954 up to quite recently. Jimmy had three sons who are also licensed Radio Amateurs: John GI4JVP, James GI0GGY and Brendan MI0GGY.

GI3GGY's station included a massive log-periodic antenna that had previously been part of the White House / Kremlin hotline system which was established at the height of the Cold War.

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## **Mayo Rally**

A reminder that next Sunday, 18th November, the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network rally takes place at the Welcome Inn in Castlebar. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the usual traders will be in attendance.

Ahead of the rally, on Saturday evening the 17th, two of Ireland's most experienced amateurs who will talk on their respective topics: Commencing at 7 p.m. Thos Caffrey EI2JD (IRTS Contest Manager) will speak on contesting and working DX. Thos is an experienced single operator and multi-operator contester and is one of Ireland's leading DXers. Not to be missed!

Following at 9 p.m. will be John Tait EI7BA. John is a leading DXer and an avid home constructor – some interesting and practical topics will be covered in this lecture.

More information, including details of special accommodation deals are on [www.ei7mre.org](http://www.ei7mre.org) the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network web site.

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## **New EI DXCC award holder**

Cork based radio amateur Anthony Cummins EI3GAB is the latest EI call sign holder to achieve the DXCC award. This brings the number of EI calls with the DXCC award to almost 70. See [www.irts.ie/dxcc](http://www.irts.ie/dxcc) for a complete list of award holders.

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## **Summits On The Air**

Most of us will remember much of October as a wet and windy month, with few enough days when a trip to the mountains would seem attractive. However, Phil ON4TA was activating the hills of Antrim, Tyrone, Donegal and Mayo during October. Active on both HF and VHF, Phil reports that VHF contacts were few and far between but he did make an effort to use VHF and managed some 4m and 2m FM QSOs. 20 metres was by far the best band, with good contacts into Europe. He included a visit to Aranmore, off the coast of Donegal, where the somewhat rare IOTA reference combined with the equally rare "EJ" prefix brought in plenty of DX - which included Thailand on 20 metres phone, using just 25 watts to a wire dipole attached to a fishing pole.

Phil's web site at [filip.rogister.eu](http://filip.rogister.eu) includes plenty of interesting detail on the hills he climbed as well as those he was unable to access for a various reasons.

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## **Standard for Power Line Telecommunications**

Many of you will have heard of or read about the controversy surrounding a proposed new standard for Power line Telecommunications (PLT) devices. These devices allow computer networking and the distribution of data over house mains wiring using frequencies in the HF spectrum. To do this the devices need to use power levels in excess of those permitted by the present standard. It is probable that the amateur bands will be adequately protected by a requirement in the proposed standard to provide notches to mitigate interference to amateur, aeronautical mobile and broadcast frequencies to a level at least the same as that in the existing standard. Outside these frequencies, interference levels from PLT devices are likely to be very high. The fact that interference mitigating measures are required by the proposed standard means that PLT devices will produce unacceptable levels of interference outside the 'protected' frequencies.

IRTS and some other Societies, decided that it would not be appropriate to support a standard that only sought to protect amateur, aeronautical mobile and broadcast frequencies without regard to the levels of interference that could be caused by PLT devices to the remainder of the HF spectrum. Allowing in unacceptable levels of interference anywhere in the HF spectrum now could create a demand in the future for the raising of permitted signal levels in what are now the 'protected' frequencies.

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## **Validate Your UK Licence**

If you are the holder of a UK amateur radio licence received between November 2006 and August 2007 and have not since validated your licence with Ofcom, then you should do so now. This can be done using the online licensing system at [www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc) - see page 8 of the November issue of RadCom.

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## **Limerick Radio Club**

The next meeting of Limerick Radio Club will take place on Wednesday 14th November at 1930 in the Limerick Institute of Technology. Liam EI7DSB will give a talk on building Arduino kits.

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## **Galway Radio Experimenters Club**

Galway Radio Experimenters Club are having their AGM today, 11th November, in the Anno Santo Hotel, Salthill at 3 pm. Tom (EI3ER) will also give a short lecture and PowerPoint presentation on the Marconi Clifden station as featured on BBC Coast. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

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## **DX News**

Hardy DL8NU is QRV from Mahe in the Seychelles until 24 November. He is using the callsign S79NU and is mainly on CW. QSLs go via his home call.

Eric F6ICX is reactivating his 5R8IC callsign from Madagascar. He will be on the island of Sainte-Marie which counts as AF-090 for the Islands on the Air award.

An international team of 23 operators from 9 countries will be active from Brunei from 11 – 23 November. They will use the callsign V84SMD with seven stations on all bands 6 – 160m. QSL manager is IK2VUC.

Prefix hunters should look out for the special Mongolian prefix of JU850 during the period 14 – 21 November. The regular JT prefixes can be replaced to celebrate the 850th birthday of Genghis Khan.

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Items for inclusion in next week's Radio News can be submitted via e-mail to

“newsteam /at/ irts / dot / ie” for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Urgent news items for the radio news maybe telephoned to the radio news editor, Aidan, EI7JC on 085 7100511.

Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Thursday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday’s bulletin.

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